GREER MEN

and

Ellen C. Greer



G R E E R M E N

and

Ellen C. Greer

Compiled by
Ellen Greer Rees
July 1953

Revised by William Nathaniel Greer

April, 2022

This revision deletes blank pages, resizes to 8.5 x 11 inch pages and uses Courier New font, but retains original line and page breaks and graphics. It corrects original errors of formatting, typing and misspellings. It restores three missing pages (resulting in 66 leaves) and corrects OCR errors in the previous PDF document digitized by the Internet Archive on 2/10/2010.

- - - - OUR FAMILY - - - -

There are many Greers both old and young
Fast and present and some with praises unsung,
Scattered over many Lands and climes,
Gentle, kindly people with hearts of gold.
To is a fine old honored name
From McGregor, in Scotland far away.

To this America our ancestors came
Seeking freedom from tyranny and strife — not fame,
To 'The Promised Land' of peace.
From Maryland southward they went
Into lands of peaches, azaleas and sweet magnolias
On to Texas, ever westward was the cry.

Frontiers they helped explore and conquer,
In different states they were.
Tom and Ellen's kin in Arizona many years
Their home in sunshine and tears.
Now there are descendants numerous,
And a town named "Greer" for Uncle "H".

Some from Apache bounty will not roam
Others far away have made their home.
It matters not what clime or calling,
If they but excel in deed and thought
Striving ever onward and upward,
To do each day the best they can.

*** * * * * ***

May this little booklet help inspire us all
To honor, cherish and love our good name,
This privilege and trust is our noble heritage.

We wish to acknowledge and give credit and thanks to Mrs. Oasis G. Blassingame, age 85 yrs,(Dear Aunt "A") for her help and writings, and to Mrs. Bonnie Rees Davidson for her drawings, and to Mrs. Nadene Rees Andersen for her typing.

Kind reader--Turn these pages reverently.
Judge slowly. Criticize lightly.
"To err is human, to forgive divine." . . . E. G. R.

----THE VANISHING COWBOY----

The cowboy of old, is almost gone and forgotten. Some of our Greers Nat, Dick, Harris, Lacy, Riley, John, and Dodd were cowboys and these pages are partly to help us go back in memory and not entirely forget them. They had a hard life not with all the glamour that is pictured now with it's gay attire, "Howdy, Pardner" shows and rodeo.

Open range is almost gone, most land is 'under fence'; this has made the old venturesome life a thing of the paste. A maverick or a doggie; the calf accidentally or on purpose separated from its mother is unknown now The stern business of hunting lost cattle and horses, finding suitable range, round-ups, and long hard drives are past.

The feed depended almost entirely on the range, and the range depends on the rain at the right time and the weather. Cowboys rode when it was often impossible to get a drink of water. To drink muddy water or some found in a dirty hole was not unusual, but welcome. Cattle and horses were left to winter as best they could on the range. Often they would have pulled through had they not been forced to drink in the boggy quick sands of The Little Colorado River, and washes; being weak, many died in the bog each year.

Now pastured, sheltered from storm, wintered in warm climes fed and fattened to the nth degree, cattle-men have found that it pays better to have a few well-tended, breeded cattle than to have a larger number of scrub stock. De-horning was known, now it is the common practice.

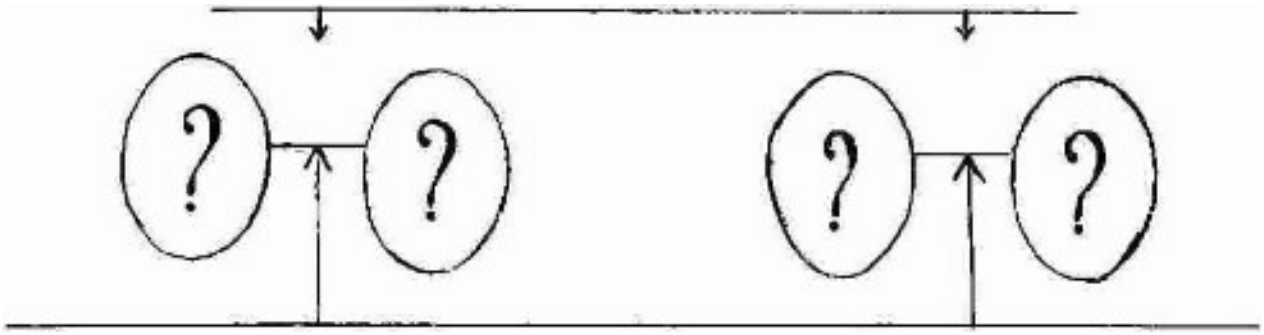
The first range cattle in Arizona were Texas Longhorns, very hardy, from Mexican cattle. These were replaced by Herefords, Short Horns and other breeds of beef cattle.

It is said, "Other states were made and born
Texas grew from hide and horn."

If cattle helped Texas grow. then cattle helped Arizona grow. And then they helped the Greer cowboys!



Find Their Parents



John A. or D. Greer born where . . . ? **Sarah Hunt . . . . . ?**
Born 19 Jan. 1761. **Born 26 Feb. 1765.**
Died Feb. 1843 Troup Co. Ga. **Died 8, Sept. 1835.**
Married 14 Feb. 1783 Edgefield District, So. Carolina.

Children

Reddick Greer
B. 11 Dec. 1782 Ga. D. 20 Oct. 1802 M.
Thomas Greer
B. 30 Dec. 1784 Hancock Co. Ga. D. 17 Aug. 1850 M. Amy Johnson
Jane Greer
B. 13 Mar. 1787 Hancock Co. Ga. M. Thomas Mangham
James Alexander Greer
B. 1 Oct. 1789 Hancock Co. Ga. M. Sarah Terry
Gilbert Dunlap
B. 29 Oct. 1792 Hancock Co. Ga. M. Mrs. Ann Lewis Wellborn
Sarah H. Greer
B. 10 Jan. 1794 Hancock Co. Ga. M. Abraham Irvin
John Greer
B. 4 Oct. 1796 Hancock Co. Ga. D. 8 Mar. 1804
Hannah Greer
B. 13 May 1798 Hancock Co. Ga. M. Thomas Nolan
William D. Greer
B. ? B. Warren Co. Ga. M. Malinda? and Mrs. Hillary Bourdant
Nathaniel Hunt Greer
B. 26 0ct. 1802 Jasper Co. Ga. D. 25 June, 1855 M. Ann Terry Roberts
Nancy Reddick Greer
B. 9 Aug. 1805 Jasper Co Ga. D. Oct. 1878 M. (2)John Sprouse (1) Willis Johnson

Our ancestor John A. or D. Greer, above was a Revolutionary Soldier. He had served 4 Years prior to his marriage. He left a will and a Bible with a record of his children. Who will find these parents? I have hunted unsuccessfully so far. E.G.R.



"He who careth not whence he came,
Careth not whither he goes."

Motto on Greer Coat-of-Arms, "Remember Thy Ancestors."

Nathaniel Hunt Greer
B. 26 Oct. 1802 Jasper Co. Ga.
D. 25 June 1855
M.

Nancy or Ann Terry Roberts
B. 4 Aug. 1805 Fairfax, Virginia
D, 26 Sept. 1888

Children

Gilbert Dunlap Greer
B. 11 Oct. 1822 Decalb, Ga. D. 7 Apr. 1910 M. Susan Carthurs (1)
Marian Lane (2)

Wilmirth Margaret Greer
B. 18 Nov. 1824 Decalb, Ga. D. 31 Mar. 1902 M. Edwin Wallace East

Thomas Lacy
B.2 Sept. 1826 Decalb, Ga. D. 30 July 1881 M. Catherine E. Camp

Wm. Redick
B. 18 Nov. 1828 Troupe, Ga. D. 1900 M. unmarried

Stephen Decatur
B. 26 June 1830 Troupe, Ga. D. 25 Jan. 1905 M. Minty Howard

Christopher Columbus
Americus Vespucius Twins D. 8 Feb. 1854 M. Virginia Wilkins
B. 4 Mar. 1832 Chambers, Ala. D. 3 May 1896 M. Polly Ann Lane

Dixon Hamblin Greer
B. 16 Apr. 1834 Chambers, Ala D. 29 July 1918 M. Mary V. Sprouse (1)
(2)Mrs. Harriet C. Murphy

Sarah Hunt
B. 26 Feb. 1836 Chambers, Ala D. 30 July 1925 M. Lycurgas Johnson

Nathaniel Hunt
B. 1838 Washington, Tex. D. 1838 infant

Ira Abney
B. 14 June 1840 Washington, Tex. D. 22 June 1855

John Irvine
B. 1844 Washington, Tex. D. child

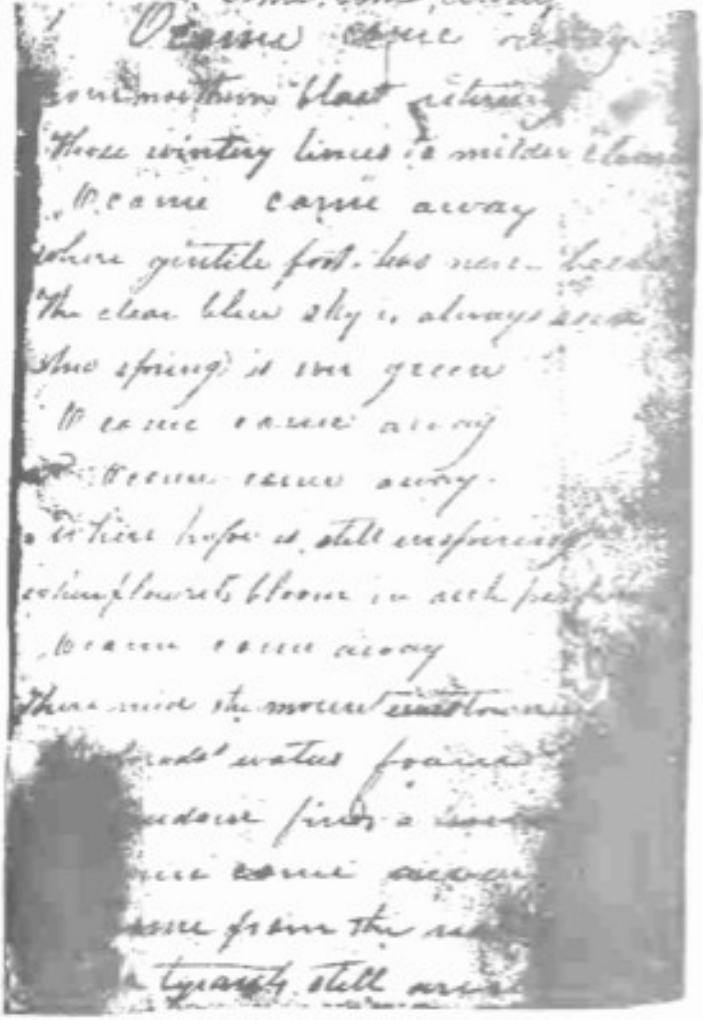
Parley Wiley
B. 17 Feb. 1842 Washington, Tex. D. 14 Oct. 1851

Mathew Simeon (Babe)
B. 15 April 1845 Washington, Tex. D. 23 June 1915 M.
(1) Susan
(2) Sophronia Lane

The mother often spoke of her 12 sons being like the 12 sons for the 12 tribes.

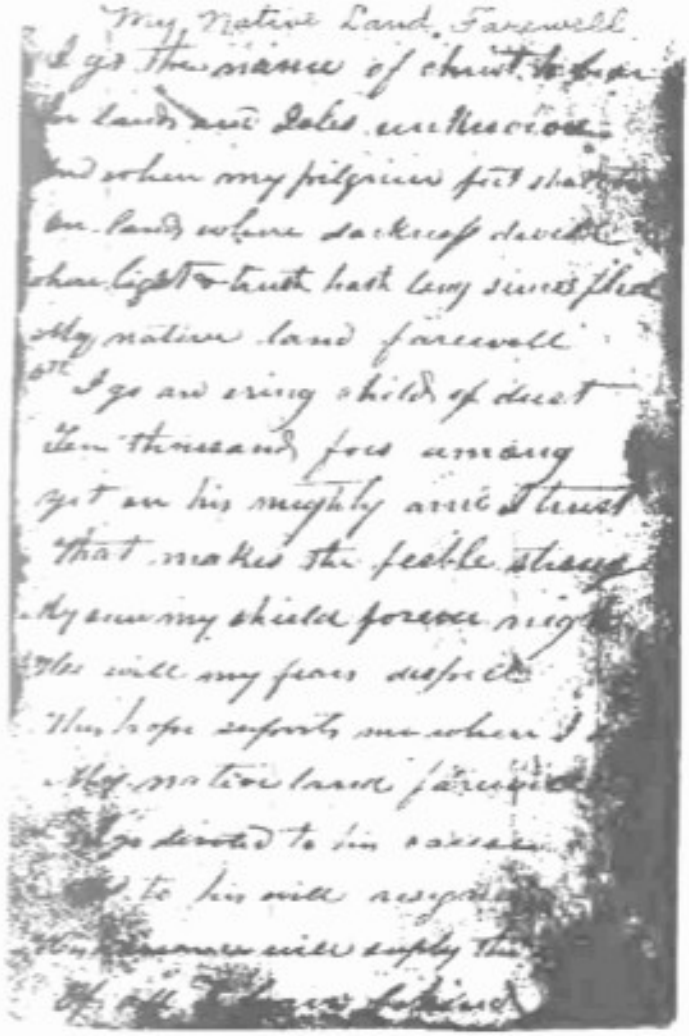
After Nathaniel and his 15-year old son died on the road to Utah and "Mammy Greer," as she was called, was widowed at 50-yrs. Of age she made her home in Texas and was a widow 33 years. She made one trip to Ariz. to see if she wanted to live there, but she preferred Texas. She loved to read the Bible and Uncle Nat who knew her told me she was unusually good at spelling. We have, in the family, two poems that Nathaniel composed.





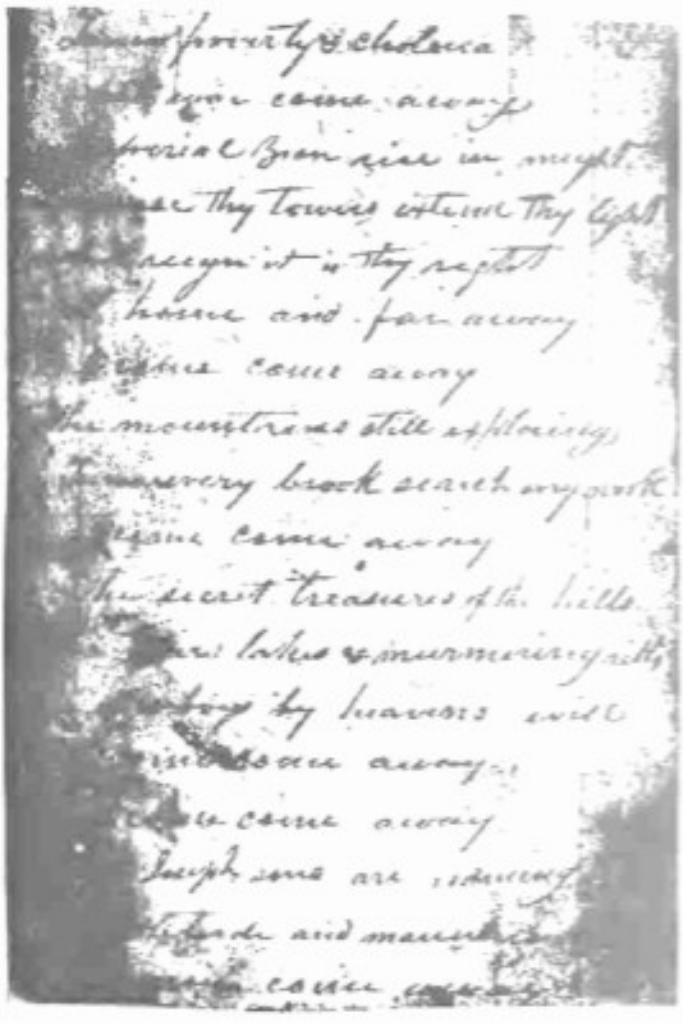
Come, Come, Away

O Come Come away
from this cold clime
Where winters lingers in milder climes
O come come away
where gentle feet has never trod
The clear blue sky is always seen
And spring is ever green
O come come away
O come come away
Where hope is still inspiring
Where flowers bloom in each path
O come come away
Where mid the mountain torrents
And floods waters foaming
Where ever you find a
O come come away
O come from the
a tyranny still

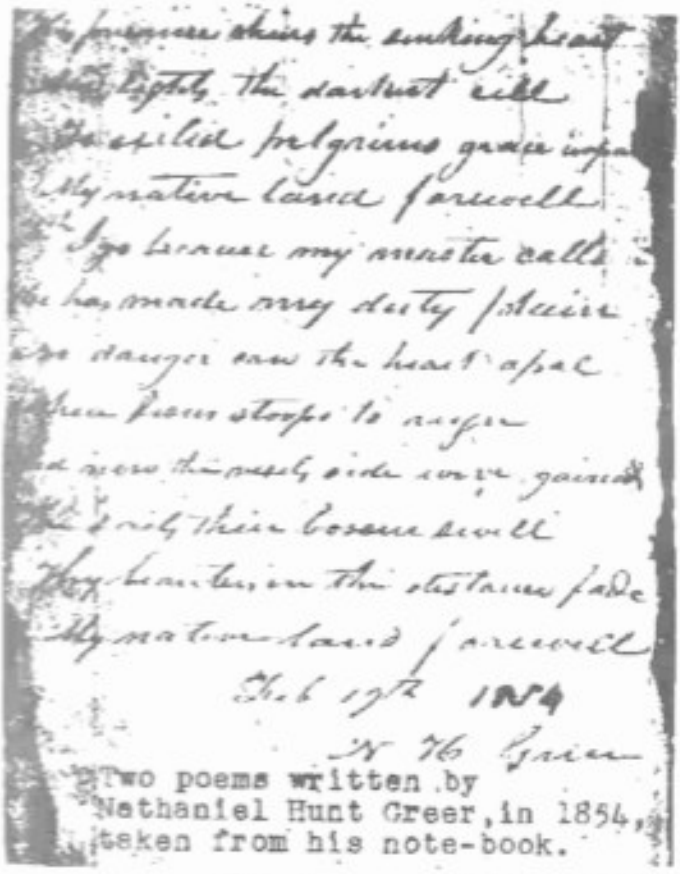


My Native Land, Farewell

I go the name of christ to spread
Where lands and lakes unknown
And when my pilgrims feet shall tread
On lands where darkness dwells
Where light & truth hath long since fled
My native land farewell
I go and bring a child of dust
From thousands foes among
Yet on his mighty arm I trust
That makes the feeble strong
My arm my shield forever nigh
Who will my fears disperse
His hope supports me when I die
My native land farewell
I go devoted to his cause
To his will resigned
Whatever may supply the
Of all I leave behind



Poverty & Cholera
O come come away
Where Zion rise in might
Where thy towers extend thy light
Where reign in thy regard
O come and far away
O come come away
The mountains still exploring
In every brook search my path
O come come away
The secret treasures of the hills
The lakes murmuring rills
By heavens will
O come come away
Joseph sons are
And manasseh
O come come away



Where pleasure chains the sinking heart
Lightly the darkest veil
Parallel pilgrims grave impart
My native land farewell
I go because my master calls
He has made my duty plain
No danger can the heart appal
From fears stoops to anger
And view the ready side we gain
With their bosom swell
Their banners in the sky flame fade
My native land farewell

Feb 17th 1854

N H Greer

Two poems written by
Nathaniel Hunt Greer, in 1854,
taken from his note-book.

Copies available. — E.S.R.

---NATHANIEL HUNT GREER---

Born 26, Oct. 1802, in Jasper Co. Ga, The Peach State, the tenth of eleven children, his parents were John (A. or David) Greer and Sarah Hunt. He married Ann Terry Roberts when he was about 19 yrs. old. They had five children here and he served on the Ga. Legislature. Then they moved to Chambers Co. Ala. a newly formed county and he was the first sheriff. Here twin boys and two more children were born. Also he was in military service in the Creek War. He was in Capt. House's Co. Webbs Battalion, of Chambers Co. (1836).

With the desire those early settlers had or some other motive we find them on the move again. From a diary written later by his son, A. V. Greer: "I was in my fifth year when Father and his family left Ala. for Tex. in the early part of 1837. We embarked in a steam-boat in Ala. to New Orleans, at which place we stopped for several days. Sailed in the ship Fannin across The Gulf of Mexico, via Galveston, landed at Valasco, Tex. Mar 4, my birthday.-----Settled in Washington Co.----Our family consisted of besides Father, Mother and eight children, Wm. Hunt, John Smith, Mr. Loveless, Leroy Greer and Tom Irvine, the last two my cousins also five colored viz, Ned, Jim, Judah, Lucy, and Louisa, twenty in all-----Father was away much of the time, he was a Senator under Gen. Sam Houston, the first president of the Republic of Texas.-----

In 1851-----bargained for a place from Jonathan York. We put up log cabins, 3 miles from Yorktown, on the Corpus Christi and San Antonio Road. Our brother, Parley Wiley, died and was buried



at this place-----About 1852 Father and family moved to Milam Co. near Port Sullivan, also sons-in-law Ed. W. East and S. M. Johnson to where my oldest brother Gil, lived. About this time Gil married his second wife, Marian B. Lane-----My twin brother died here 8 Feb. 1854, from pneumonia, contracted while deer-hunting, only 22 yrs. old. He was buried not far above saw-mill near the edge of the river bottom, a high place-----Here we first heard Mormonism by Elders John Osler and Washington L. Jolly in the summer of 1852." Henry G. Boyle was another missionary to them. They embraced the unpopular faith.



The state of Tex. created a county in 1850, and named it Greer county for him, but the general government of the U. S. said that the tract belonged to it, and after years of litigation in 1896, the government won and the county, with its name all went to Okla. It has now been cut up into three and part of another county part still bearing the name Greer Co. Okla.

In the year, 1855 they were on their way to Utah, heeding the call of conscience and obeying. At the Missouri River the father paid 99 head of cattle for tithing. But the father never reached his longed-for Utah, he sleeps somewhere in Neb. or Wyo. in an unknown and unmarked grave. In church history, June 24/25, 1855, Capt. Seth M. Blair reporting his company says, "Col. N. H. Greer, a prominent man in the company, died of cholera. In the first 36 hours so many died of cholera that we buried one person every 3 hrs. The cries of the dying and shrieks of the living presented horrors unimaginable. Grave diggers were busy night and day." Could the fact that his

promising 15-year old son had died four days prior, have influenced the fathers death That made the fourth of their five children to die. Six of Wilmirth Greer East's children died at this time, loosing grandchildren was as hard as loosing their own. Cholera acts quickly like poison and is very painful.

Heart-sick those left came on to Utah, a very severe winter came which was new to them and their stock. The stock froze and starved to death, food or grazing could not be found nor purchased for them.

Thos. Lacy the next to oldest son, met Ellen Camp also from 'The South' and it being 'love at first sight' they were married in about two months.

The Greers went into business with Blair and Basset and Company in a store on the north corner of Main and 1st South. One son, Matthew S. (Babe) 10 yrs. old went to school to Parley P. Pratt and liked him so well that he named his first son Parley Pratt Greer.

Thos. and Ellen spent a happy winter as newly-weds attending parties, dances and shows always popular with L. D. S. (Mormon) people.

In a newspaper, of the city at that time it was published that The Apostate Greers left to return to their home. I hold old letters written from Greers which tell that they believed and loved the gospel, but they did not like the cold climate and conditions for their mother, cattle, and livelihood. Eventually two of the sons, Tom and "H" settled in Ariz., Dixon in Utah, and Gil, Steven Bill, and Matthew stayed in Texas.



First Greer Reunion at Greer, Arizona, 1951



Greer Reunion, 1952, at Greer, Arizona.

Willmuth B.'s dau
Myrtle Browns daughter

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT, to the memory of Sister Willmirth Greer East, Daughter of Nathaniel H. and Nancy Greer, who after an illness of upwards of five years, passed from this sphere to the great beyond, March 31st, 1902.

Sister East was born in Decalb Co, Georgia, Nov, 18, 1824, was baptized a member of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints Day July 22, 1854 at Port Sullivan, Texas. Married to Edward W. East at the age of fifteen. Was mother of 13 children, of whom three survive her.

On the early morning of September 11, 1854, while lying in bed praying to God for a testimony that would convince some of her relatives, the Gift of Tongues rested upon her, she arose, walked into the yard, and commenced speaking, before she had finished talking, which was about fifteen minutes, many of the neighbors, as well as relatives had assembled and listened eagerly to the inspired words, as they fell from her lips, which she also interpreted.

In June 1855 in company with her husband and other emigrants, left her home in Texas for Salt Lake City, where they arrived in September of the same year residing there for 22 years during which time she labored diligently and faithfully in many positions of trust as Relief Society Officers.

She accompanied her husband on a mission to Texas in 1872 where she bore a strong testimony of the truth to many who had never before heard the Gospel. Moved to Apache Co. Arizona, in June 1877 where she held the responsible position of the Stake President of Relief Society until 1883 when she with her family came to the Gila, here she was also sustained as President of the Relief Society of the St. Joseph Stake of Zion, at its first organization in June 1883, where she worked with undaunted energy for the cause of truth and righteousness. Ever having in mind the welfare of her sister associates, until in the winter of 1898, she was through physical disabilities unable to perform the duties of President longer. Therefore be it resolved that we her co- laborers in the great work of love, express our appreciation of her counsel, her example, and her love of the divine, all of which were manifested so prominently in all her labors, and which we have enjoyed by our association with her. Resolved that we the members of the Relief Society, of the St. Joseph Stake strive to emulate her noble traits of character, of faith, integrity, and charity, and her devotion to her Religion,

Resolved that we place a copy of these resolutions on our Records, that one be sent to the Women's Exponent for publication and that one be placed in the hands of the bereaved family.

Committee on Resolutions
Mary L. Ransom
Sarah Webb
1902 Pima, Ariz.







Thomas Lacy Greer
and
Oasis



Ellen C. Greer

1855 At time of marriage. S.L. City Utah.



Thomas Lacy Greer, Catherine Ellen Camp

THOMAS LACY GREER FAMILY

Thomas Lacy Greer
B. 26 Sept. 1826 DeKalb. Co. Ga.
M. 25 Nov. 1855
D. 30 July 1881 Hunt, Apache Co. Arizona.

Catherine Ellen Camp
B. 17 Oct, 1837 Dresden, Weakley Co. Tenn.
D. 15 Nov. 1929 Holbrook Navajo Co. Ariz.

Children

Nathaniel Wm. Greer (Martha E. Phelps
B. 23 Dec. 1856 Hill Co. Tex. D. 5 Jan. 1938 M. (Annie Johns

Gilbert Dunlap
B 20 Jan. 1860 Kimball, Bosque Co. D. 22 Jan. 1895 M. Julia S. Nichol

Deseret Diannah
B. 13 Nov. 1861 Kimball, Bosque Co. D 28 July 1898 M. Frank P. Drew

Richard Decatur
B. 18 Mar. 1864 Kimball, Bosque Co. D. 14 Oct. 1937 M. Hannah Kempe

John Harris
B. 10 Feb. 1866 Kimball, Bosque Co. D. 10 June 1926 M. Orpha E Nichol

Oasis Ann
B. 23 Nov. 1867 Kimball, Bosque Co. D.? M. Robt. Carr Blassingame

James William
B. 9 Feb. 1870 Kimball, Bosque Co. D. 10 Oct. 1871 infant

Lacy
B. 31 Oct. 1872 Kimball, Bosque Co. D. 25 Nov. 1904 M. Minerva Harris

Harriet Kay
B. 17 May 1857 Morgan, Bosque Co. D. No. 1907 M. William Pulsipher

Ann Terry (1. Arthur Thomas
B. 1 Jan. 1877 Medicine Bow Barber Co. Kansas M. (2. Wallace Rigg
(3. John Thomas

Margaret Ellen
B. 20 Aug. 1879 Hunt, Apache Co. Ariz. M. Charles E. Pulsipher

Thomas taught his children like this . . . by example.

"My father (Harris) and I were in Eddie Whiting's yard with a load of fine apples. We were parked along side some man's wagon, who also had a load. While father was inside I just helped myself to an apple out of the man's wagon. On the way home I showed Dad this apple and remarked what a good looking apple it was. "Where did you get that, Jim?" I told him. We turned right around and went back to town, and he gave me a dime, I believe, and he told me to go give it to the man and tell him I was sorry, so I did." by Jim.



"ABOUT MY FATHER"

By Oasis Blassingame.

Thomas Lacy Greer, son of Nathaniel Hunt Greer and Ann Terry Roberts was born 2 Sept, 1826, in DeKalb, Co. Ga. He grew to manhood before they came to Utah, when his father, mother brothers and sisters all came overland to Utah, but while coming, one brother died of cholera, and then his father who was buried with little to mark his resting place.

The rest of the family came on but after a hard winter in which most of their stock died, due to cold and lack of food which could not be purchased, they became discouraged and returned to Texas, their former home. They met the Phelps and Lanes, families coming to Utah but when told of the cold weather and hardships these people returned with them.

Mother and father were married 25 Nov, 1855, in Salt Lake City, Utah. They were called to settle on a mission to Texas, they left in the spring, 1856, with his family. Because they were going, the Greer family may have been more inclined to return and vice-versa. Father gave Mother a gold watch and chain, for a wedding present, that he had obtained, in the city of Old Mexico when he was in service in the Mexican War, in which he was shot and wounded, in his lung, he carried the bullet to his grave. Mother kept this present all her life, but she gave it to me before she died.

They lived in Texas 20 yrs. The Civil War occurred during these years. That must have given them some worries. Of their twelve children, ten were born in Texas, then Ann Terry, in Kansas and the baby, Margaret, in Arizona.

Dixon H., brother of Thos. Lacy came to Texas on a mission, they visited around and baptized several people among them the three children, Richard D., John Harris, and Oasis, who were baptized by their Uncle Dixon.

Not long after that the Greers prepared to sell out and go to Utah, but before they left the mother of Ellen Camp Greer died and was buried near or in Kimball, Texas. They left in '76 with their cattle and horses going north into Kansas, where they had to stay over the winter Here they built log cabins to live in and they cut hay for their stock.

An incident there was a hired man stole their money. It was hidden in a trunk under the bed in the wagon. The baby was asleep on the bed, the rest were up at the new rooms where there was a fire--they heard the baby cry and when they reached her the covers were thrown up over her either to stifle her crying or by accident and the money was gone. He took a horse and saddle also. They were glad to find May, the baby, alive. They had to send back to Texas for more money.

In the spring they left traveling slowly, via Elnore, Colo. Albuquerque, Mew Mex, into Ariz. Another hired man stole Gil's new saddle and a horse and disappeared, one happened in the first part of the winter and the other in the latter part, but both in Kansas.

When they arrived at Woodruff, Ariz, they found the people very friendly and they begged them to stay and being travel-weary and the season getting late, Sept. 1, they were persuaded to stay. The people fixed a blacksmith shop for them and they began to



build log rooms. It was Father's birthday the next day, Mrs. Cardon made him a vinegar pie, a variety new to us.

The new rooms with fireplaces in both rooms were soon finished and we lived there until spring. By then my father had purchased the French Ranch, from Leon Duboise for $350.00 that we had seen along the way, where there was lots of good grass and fine cattle. It became Greer's Ranch from then on.

They sent their son, 12 year old Dick who had been down with rheumatism a year or more and had learned to do housework, and 'Nigger Jeff' who had come with them from Texas and who was clean and handy around the house, up to the new place to make butter. Grass was good, cows were fresh with little new calves, they made so much butter that it took Mother three mornings to mold it into five pound lots and wrap it to sell at Albuquerque, but a sudden trip to St. Johns came up and it was sold there for 50¢ per pound.

Two cedar-picket rooms were quickly built and adobes started for the two big permanent rooms with fireplaces. Later two more rooms were added.

Thos. L Greer was appointed by Gov. John C. Freemont, his former friend in the Texas War, to be the Treasurer of the newly made Apache Co. a part of Yavapia Co. Bishop John Hunt of Snowflake who became Co. Assessor, I think, became a great friend of fathers. Wm. Flake, of Snowflake, also, was a very good friend. Either he or his father had been a missionary in Tenn. to Mother's folks. I think he was still Treasurer when he took sick with erysipelas which may have resulted from his bullet wound. If we could have had the right kind of medical aid for him he



might have lived with us a few more years to help our dear Mother who was doing the best she could with her fast growing family In the new country.

He was a kind, considerate father, wise in his counsel, patient, considerate and he tried to treat everyone as they wished to be treated. He hated to have anyone tell him a falsehood, and it was I who got a paddling once for telling him one. He asked me if I had matches in my hands and I told him "No." when I did have. My Mother and Harris were very pleased, once when he came from town (in Texas) and I went up to him where he was sitting at his desk writing and figuring. I asked for my candy which he had been in the habit of bringing me. He said, "Don't bother me, I'm busy. I forgot it." I was about 6 yrs. old. I said to him, "You old pup, you!" He swung his arm and slapped me and by the time I picked myself up from the other side of the room I realized it was not the right thing to say.

During his illness he talked to me about wearing jewelry which he liked but he did not want me to get my ears pierced. He said heathens of Africa did that. And he said not to be backward and walk out of a room when young men came in but stay and act like a lady.

When they were driving the cattle and the horses coming to Utah (Ariz.) in 1776-7 the boys would practice roping on the cattle partly for more ability and much for amusement. Our father did not like the stock roped needlessly, so he chided them. One day Nat threw his rope on "Old Creep" a cow that always lagged behind and in some way they broke her leg and had to kill her. She was very



fat and they sold most of the meat, the children refused to eat any of the meat as they liked her and wept about her being killed. This happened between Trinidad and Elmore, Colo.

My father was a like-long example to his children. They never could forget his influence. He was a firm man and commanded res- pect from all, yet he was an indulgent father when he thought it was for the best and he left a good name for his children to emul- ate. He was a pioneer who helped open up three frontiers, Georgia, Texas, and Arizona.

* * * * * * * * *

--<u>TRIBUTES</u>--

Dick Greer said of his father, "He was a man among men. As a man he compared with Brigham Young and Abraham Lincoln. My father filled the room like fresh air when he entered it."

Ellen C. Greer always spoke of her husband as "Mr. Greer" not "Tom."

* * * *

Judge Geo. H. Crosby Jr. said: "The Greers were and are real people the kind that make nations great and become real sinews of the best governments -- republics. They had honor, learning, cul- ture patriotism and hearts warm with friendship. May the young make family traditions good.

* * * *

Thos. L. Greer instilled honesty and integrity into his children, he imbued them with the knowledge of good right and wrong.

* * * *

A tribute by a negro slave, written in a pocket note-book owned by Nathaniel Hunt Greer and later by his son,

Thomas L. "Mass' Tom, de Lord ob heben bless him. And in dying may he tie in."



DEED TO GREER'S RANCHE from E. Leon Dubois.

o---------1878---------o

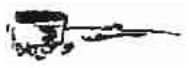
To all to whom these presents shall come,
Be it known, that I, E Leon Dubois — of Yavapai
County Arizona, have this day, for and in consid-
eration of the sum of Three Hundred dollars to
me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged, bargained, sold, quitclaimed and
conveyed, and do by these presents, bargain, sell,
quit-claim and convey, unto Thomas L. Greer
of said County & Territory, all my right, title, claim,
of location, interest & possession, right of Homestead
or any and all interest whatever, in and to a certain
Ranche called and known as the "French Ranche"
in Yavapai County Arizona about twenty miles below
St Johns and on the Little Colorado River about two
miles below the mouth of the Couches, together with
the springs, Cabins, Corals and all improvements
thereunto belonging.

Witness my hand and seal this twenty
ninth day of December A.D. 1878

Witness,
E. M. East
Ed. M. East

E. Leon Dubois [seal]





Appraisal of Estate of Thos. Lacy Greer Nov. 14, 1881
at time of death)

He left no will.

Estimate by appraisers.

300 calves @$5.00	$1,500.00
350 cows @$15.00	5,250.00
100 yearlings @$10.00	1,000.00
75 colts $10.00	750.00
75 mares $25.00	1,875.00
25 horses over2 $30.00	750.00
50 yearly colts $15.00	750.00
1 old wagon $15.00	15.00
1 old buggy $15.00	15.00
1 old plow	5.00
The Greer Ranch	1,000.00
The Horsehead Ranch	150.00
Debts collectable due estate	2,000.00
	$15,060.00

By E. W. East
D. K. Udall

Ellen C. Greer is administratrix.

Estate evaluation in same year: $17,529.78
due to increase in stock.

Children at time of death

Nat 24 years	Oasis A. 13 years
Gilbert D. 21 years	Lacy 8 years
Deseret D. 19 years	Harriet Fay 6 years
Richard D. 17 years	Ann T 4 years
John Harris 15 years	Margaret E. 2 years.

Debts to Lot Smith $40.00

All probate notices were printed in Arizona Democrat, Prescott starting Aug. 21, 1881. Ellen C. Luther Martin and D. K. Udall were surieties for Ellen's $5,000.00 bond, made as administratrix.

The wealth of the estate interpreted at today's prices would be ten times its evaluation then.

Mrs. Ann Thomas of Mesa has a tax receipt of her mothers for one years taxes. It is for $1,700.00.



FIVE GREER BROTHERS and sister Willmirth.



Willmirth
Greer
East



Harriet Diannah
Camp Greer



Dixon Hamblin
Greer



Mrs. Graco G. Nuttall
daug. of Dixon and Harriet,



Americus Vespucius
Uncle "H" Greer



"Tom."
Thomas L. Greer



Stephen Decatur
Uncle "Kate" in
Texas



Polly Lane Greer
Wife of Uncle "H"



"Babe"
Matthew S. Greer



Texas Relatives

---DIXON HAMBLIN GREER---

Born 16 Apr. 1834, in Chambers County, Ala. moved when small to Wash. Co. Tex. He was a student and loved to read and get a good education. In 1855 his fathers family came to "Zion", the father, Nathaniel H. Greer, dying crossing the plains.

Dixon did not return with the family to Texas in 1856. He remained in Utah, married Mary Vernisia Sprouse and they were on their way to Texas when she gave birth to a premature baby and both died in Denver, Colorado. He returned to Utah with his son, Nathaniel, married Mrs. Harriet Dianah Camp Murphy in 1864 who had a little girl___?.

Lived in Salt Lake and Provo and then Wallsburg, Utah, where he took up a 40-acre farm and bought a lot in town where he built a home and lived until 1900. He kept a small store 10 or 15 yrs. He also taught school for a number of years.

They had 11 children, 6 of whom died before their parents. He died, age 84 yrs. and she died 14 July 1908, age 66 yrs. He lived a useful, good life and was a kind and loving father. They often drove to S. L. C, Provo and Heber for conferences, big events and occasions of interest.

His children, "Stev." a merchant of Wallsburg, "Dixon" Ezra and Alice of California and Mrs. Grace Nuttall of Provo survive him and 36 grandchildren-- 92 great grand children-- and 121 great great grand children.



(Letter from Uncle "H" while a soldier in Civil War.)

Camp Shesesk, Aug. 24th 1862

Dear Brother,

I write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this may find you and friends well. Yours of August 2nd came to hand by yesterday's mail. I was glad to hear that all was well.

The health of the boys is improving. Kit and Frank are still at Singleton's and I have not heard from them for the last ten days. Frank was to have been here yesterday but did not come. I suppose they are still on the mend. Mr. Henderson of our company passed here yesterday on his way to Hill and Bosque to procure clothing for the Company. I did not see him as I was on duty at the magazine. I shall need some clothing for winter which I want sent by him. I left one pair of pants that would help me some. I would like to have one or two good over-shirts, if you can get any jeans I would like to have a pair of pants. If anyone sends me anything by Mr. Henderson have it marked so I shall know it. Mr. Henderson left the Regiment 7 miles this side of Red River. He informed us of the death of James Hill and that M. A. Fuller and James Blair were left on the road sick. I suppose Henderson will call on you and he can tell you more than I can write.

You say you wish to know whether I want my horse sold or not. If you can get a good mare for him I think it would be best. When I say a good mare, I do not mean a Spanish Pony. I want you to take care of what little I left, and if I should never return, I give it to you. Not that I think any more of you then the rest but it is so little that it would not be worth dividing, and I do not think that you have had an equal show with the rest.

I want you to be kind and good to your mother and give heed to the council of your superiors in age and experience. Go to school when you can and try to learn and make good use of your time when about home. And, to use the figure of the Poet, so live in Youth that you will blush not in age.

There are three of our Company that I can't account for, viz Wm. Cope Wm. Sanders and Wm. Hamilton. I think they have laid themselves liable. I think we will get off from this place by the 15th of Sept. if things go on like they are working now. However, I hope and believe that there will be a change before long. I hear a great many saying that the war cannot last longer than Spring. This is a lonesome place to me, as there are but few men mere. All the men that did not live over a hundred miles had the privilege of being furloughed.

I must bring this to a close, as I am on duty today and I haven't anything good to write. Give my love and best wishes to all.

Yours af'ty., H. Greer Company H.

P. S. Matthew Greer:—

To M. S. Greer, Kimball Bosque Co. Texas

Babe, take good care of Medley and Millard Fillmore. H. Greer

Four red-heads



May

Ellen C.

Lloyd

Ina

Dodd

not a girl



Dodd, Paul, Lloyd Vaughn.



Ann Oasis May

– – – OUR GRANDMOTHER – – –

Ellen Camp Greer (Catherine Ellen Camp) as a child, passed through the mob violence in Nauvoo, the fright, terror and dangers with the early Saints forced to leave their beloved homes and flee, The City Beautiful, the preparations for a long (destination unknown) journey, then a trek of almost endless miles over plains and mountains, arriving a young lady in a budding city, Salt Lake City. She married Thomas Lacy Greer, a Texan, and went back with him to his much unknown, big, open country on a mission, called as so many Saints were to settle new places. Here they stayed twenty years. Ten children were born to them there, then back home to Utah they started but Arizona, with sociable people and the sight of a promising cattle ranch captured their travel-weary hearts and held them in Ariz. It was new, just becoming settled, pioneers they, but they loved it. It was not all hard, they had money enough to get a good ranch, and they had bought a good start of cattle and horses. Her kind and loving husband and strong, helpful, capable, growing sons and daughters lightened her load.

They lived near and in the dangers of The Apache War and marauding warriors and daring desperadoes common in new countries. She may have even had these in her home as it was the oasis, in Apache Co. for travelers there. Desperadoes, to her, would have been misguided boys or men away from home and mother. She would have fed and cared for them just as she would have wanted someone to care for her sons had they been away from home. She would not have been afraid of any of them. Those people had been



trained to know that they could conquer not be conquered. Early she was left a widow with ten, of her twelve children living. For forty-eight years she faced life bravely, hopefully, and resourcefully. She was a woman of dignified bearing, energetic and forceful with an artistic touch as all who entered her home will testify. She will long be remembered for her hospitality and sympathy.

Born in Tenn. 17 Nov. 1837, the tenth child of Williams Washington Camp and Diannah Greer, they always said that she was their 'tithing child' and she felt this so strongly that she tried to dedicate her life to The Lord.

When she was about six yrs. old during the trouble in Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum held a meeting in her father's house. Ellen had been put to bed but she crept downstairs and hid under the table which was covered with a long tablecloth that hid her from view. She remembered this incident well because her mother doubted her word when she told her next day that she had listened and she proved it by identifying two songs that were sung. She never forgot their titles, One was "The Pure Testimony" and the other was "Afflicted Saints of Christ Draw Near". One verse was,

"Should persecution rage and flame,
Still trust in Thy Redeemer's name;
In fiery trial thou shalt see
That as thy day, thy strength shall be."

Outside the mob came, they were burning houses and persecuting all who were favorable to the Mormons. 'Uncle Ike', one of their negro men was on guard with a shotgun and he told them if they came

inside that he would shoot and they were persuaded to leave, without molesting anyone.

One time the Prophet put his hand on her head and said that she was a nice little red-headed girl. She never forgot this. The elders were holding a meeting near their home. The children were amusing themselves jumping off the back of the buggy, she fell and broke her nose and they administered to her, which she always remembered as it was the first time that she saw anyone administer. Her mother was a charter member of The First Relief Society. When one of her Mother's children was ill and she was very worried because she had lost six children already, so besides using every remedy that she knew, she prayed earnestly. An elderly man, a stranger, very clean, came to her home, she placed food for him to eat, he bowed his head and blessed it. He told her to use certain herbs and applications for the ailing child. Next morning the old negro came in and seeing the child standing by the fireplace, in terror he exclaimed, "Oh, Misses, come quick, and see little David's ghost." The child recovered, the old man was never seen nor heard of after he left the door. It was always thought that he was one of the three Nephites.

She went through the Nauvoo Temple, to see it and heard boasts that it would be destroyed as soon as the Saints left. Her brother, William Polk Camp, next to her, 2 yrs. old, died and is buried in Nauvoo.

Her father arrived in Nauvoo in Aug. He planted turnip seeds, (under criticism because of the late season) and covered them with straw. They had greens, then matured turnips to feed



the family and neighbors all winter. Wild nuts were gathered to add to the food supply. Before the eventful trek, across the plains, maple syrup and sugar were prepared and a 30-gal. barrel of crackers was baked on a slab by the campfire.

When living at Greer's Ranch years and years later, to get to church, she drove a team, taking her children each Sun. and usually arrived earlier than the people a block away.

On Easter she always hid lots of eggs around the yard and she would appear at church with a basket of colored eggs, for all the children. The money from selling her stock (a neat sum) was placed in a store as capital stock to provide for her later lifetime. Unfortunately much of this was lost. When she prayed and that was often, it seemed like she was talking to a person right there by her. She invited anyone who was at her home at prayer time, to kneel and join with her, many not used to praying knelt there.

Although she lived ninety-two years she grew old gracefully maintaining to the end her alertness of mind and body and her cheerfulness of spirit and her strong testimony and great love of the gospel.

* * *

This story is so like Ellen that I must tell it, though it was really her aunt in Civil-War days. Many stories could be told of her devotion to duty and of her courage. Once as she came into town from her country home, for protection, with her four-horse team and wagon loaded with things she valued most including her children. She was mounted in the front seat with her negro foreman, Peter as driver. On reaching a river she found the bridge guarded by a squad of enemy soldiers who gave the order to "Halt" and Peter pulled his team to a stand-sill. Without appearing to see the soldiers, his mistress calmly commanded, "Drive on, Peter", and when the muskets aimed straight at his head and the soldiers repeated the order to halt, again he stopped. The second time the voice serene and untroubled admonished "Drive on Peter," "Lordy, ole Misses dem mens will kill us if I do." remonstrated Peter. To relieve his fears she grasped the lines and rising to her full height she plied the lines with such vigor in one mighty whack that the mules broke into a mad gallop charging the enemy with such effect that their precipitate flight opened the way and ole "Misses" with her treasures drove triumphantly on their way.

MOTHER AND SIX LIVING CHILDREN



Oasis Harris Ann Nat
Dick Mother Margaret



Dick Ann
Nat Orpha Ellen C. Greer Harris Han Oasis
Fred A. Rees Vivian Thomas Lacy Thomas

Greers Ranche at Hunt, Arizona.



"THE OLD HOMESTEAD."





John only son

Greer Reunion, 1952, at Greer, Arizona.

Buds of Ellas and Wells Melvin Harold Harvey Philip?



- 1882 -

Joe Woods **Nat Greer** **Frank P. Drew**

Tending deer at Grand Canyon Arizona.



Nat Greer

---NAT---



Nat Greer was asked to stay at Pres. David K. Udall's house and he did, as a protection during the polygamy persecutions, trials and troubles.

* * * *

Discussing the Greer boys, in early days, Bro. Charley Riggs of Concho, was there and someone said, "Now if the Greer boys were like everyone else and they would go on missions then all our troubles would be over." Mr. Riggs said, "Missions, missions, go on missions, do you think what might happen to us if they went on missions. Who would we have to fight for us?.

* * * *



St. Johns Herald. Oct. 7, 1886.

Apache Co. Again To The Front in Cowboy Tournament in Albuquerque. Nat Greer victor. The first trial was to catch, throw saddle and ride a bronco which Nat succeeded in 6 minutes and 32 seconds, taking First Prize. W. B. Barbee second prize in 8 minutes.
2nd. Feat was to catch and tie a wild steer. Nat got off with honors for this also accomplishing this in 1 and 57 sec. For our boys to do this twice in succession show that they are experts in their calling. Last year Dick, this year Nat.

* * * *

Dodd said, "Nat was one of the greatest riders in the West. He was careful and sure and as a bronco buster he had the world beat.

* * * *

Uncle Nat told me of a bet he made with John T. Lesueur as to which could get the most money in the bank first. Mr. Lesueur got $10,000 and Uncle Nat got $20,000.

* * * *



From Phoenix, on the radio about five or more years ago.
Query: What is the largest horse sale in Arizona:
Ans. It was a sale between the King Bros. and the Greers, (Nat?) Dick, Harris and Lacy. It was about 5000 head gathered from Greer's Ranch to Holbrook, where in one mighty drive were shipped bringing about $5 and $7 and $3 and $5 then, I believe the last figure. Mr, King said that Harris was the only man, except one, who could tell which horses had been broken and usually when and where.

* * * *

The Greers were consistent, they did not get drunk today to church tomorrow. If they said that they would pay on Monday then they would pay.

---"GIL"---

Gilbert Dunlap Greer, son of Catherine Ellen Camp and Thomas L. Greer, born Jan 20, 1860 lived with the family till they came to the Greer Ranch where he worked the first year. Then working about two years as missionary (locally) caring for Co-op Herd at the time. They (Mormons) traded cattle to Mexicans for Townsite of St. Johns (700 head). Studying with Mexicans to learn language, living in various homes, preparing himself for missionary to Lamanites. Was called home to assist on Ranch at the time of his father's illness and death.

In company with Alexander Nicoll family, his mother and younger children, travelled to St. George, Utah, where he married Julia Nicoll. Soon returned to St. Johns to make home, acting as peace maker on many occasions between Mexicans and whites and Indians and whites,

Homesteaded and proved upon 160 acres of land in lower St. Johns, then known as Egypt. Also had squatter which was divided into the 1st St. Johns Townsite called Salem which was abandoned as home-site due to swampy condition.

Left for mission in Spring of 1886 going to Isleta and Acoma, N.M. later went to Papago Indians in Southern Arizona, where he stayed until Aug. 1887. Returning to St. Johns where he was called as Bishop to Luna. Fall of 1889. He labored there until his death in 1895. The wife was left there with six small children, a farm wagon, in snow and cold of late January. Had a keen sense of humor, a courageous woman who always dealt justly and fairly with everyone. He was a man devoted to his religion and loved by all. Deseret News speaks of him beloved and able, 7 yrs missions record-keeper, modest in manner.

Gil. E, oldest son of Gil. D, was 11 years old at time of father's death, was a lawyer, Co. Attorney in Apache Co. , Co. School Supt. service in 1st World War. Drilled for oil near St. Johns, Ariz. owned a mine in central part of Ariz. Favorite occupation, ranching.

Gil. E. Greer, Jr. raised St. Johns and Phoenix--3 yrs. in U. S. Army Air Corp, as pilot on B-24 in U. S. and Guam. Married Ruth and had 3 sons, Brian Malcolm, Keith Edward, and David Thomas. Res. Phoenix, Motorcycle Sales And Service Business.

Major Malcolm, son of Gil. E. Greer, born 1924 St. Johns. Service in U, S. Army — 17th Armored Infantry Battalion in France. Rec'd silver star medal for gallantry. Wounded twice. One month before war ended he was killed while attempting to rescue a wounded boy who was left behind.

Gilbert E, Jr. is secretary and treasurer of the Greer's Reunion and has been since its beginning.



Gilbert D. Greer
and
Julia S. Nicoll

Julia and Children.
Laura, Gil.E., Edyth,
Dessie, Ethel, Arza.





Gil.E. Greer, Sr.



Gil.E. Greer Jr.



←Malcolm Greer
son of
Gil.E. Greer Sr.

Brain and Keith,
sons of ⟶
Gil.E. Greer Jr.





—MY SISTER DESSIE———

By Oasis G. Blassingame

She was lovely and fair as the rose in the morning, but it was not her beauty alone that won me, no, it was the truth from her eyes, ever beaming, that made me love her, the Rose of Texas.

Yes, she was all this and more to me, besides being sister she was one of the best friends that I ever had.

She was coaxed away from home when but a child of thirteen by an unprincipled, man teacher who dealt her a miserable existance for four years. Then through the love and kindness of an Uncle Gil she followed her folks to Arizona where she remained and was the source of great joy to me as a eleven year girl. It was so nice to have a sister to be with me on visits and at home and make my dresses and make me more presentable.

She taught school a while at Woodruff and stayed with brother Nat and wife, Mattie, then went back to the home-ranch of Greers where we worked and played together and in the summer of 1883 she met Frank Drew and they were married that fall, Oct. 1, 1883, with two other couples, my brother Richard D. Greer and Hannah C. Kempe and Lizzie Drew and Francis Armstrong, by John T. Lesuer of St. Johns, Arizona.

They made their home in Woodruff, Ariz. for a while then took up a ranch on the north side of the Colorado River where they ran their cattle. On Feb. 20 1885 a son was born to them named Wm. Frank named after his father and his Uncle Bill. They lived there until the range became overstocked and they moved to Tonto Basin which was a fine country then for stock and they did well there. It was hard to get down in as there was only a very steep



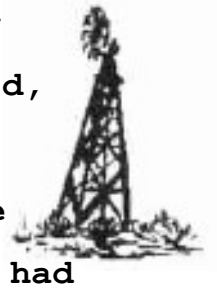
trail, the wagons could not pet down in it. It was called "The Basin". But it was a good home with good water, good grass and a garden that would produce all kinds of vegetables and fruit, but school was becoming a problem so Willie had to come out and stay with his Grandma Drew at Williams.

In 1889 Mrs. Drew and sister of her husband (Ella) went to Tonto Basin, also Mother and I and my husband, Robert Carr Blassingame. We convinced her that it was best for her to come out and on Oct. 7, 1889, she had another son, he was named Cecil Levi and she was staying at our house at the edge of The Petrified Forest in Arizona. Then she went back into that wild country, without a doctor nearer than eighty miles or more, and there was an Indian trail, up back of their place that the Indians used when on the war-path. Not many would have been equal to it, but she was always good-natured and hopeful, kind and cheerful. We could always hear her singing as she came from the upper field where she went to hoe the corn when Frank was gone.

I went home with her in 1891 and stayed until a few days before Christmas when my husband came for me. The snow was already a foot or more deep, it had not stopped snowing for two days and it was come out of there then or wait until spring. We left her there alone and we hated to go as Frank was away hunting but she never weakened when we left her and the baby and her husband returned in a day or so.

Then on April 17, 1892 another son was born, he was named N. Cecil Drew and they lived there until '95 or '96 when they sold out and moved to Mesa, Ariz, where on Nov, 8, 1896 another son was born, he was named Lloyd A. They were living there and

enjoying life. One day they were driving, they had a new buggy and a good team and the horses became frightened and ran away. She was always afraid to ride in a closed vehicle even though she would ride any horse that she could get her saddle on. Before this she had had a saddle made to order for her, it had a man's tree and a special horn called a leap-horn, this making three horns. It was a side-saddle and the ladies liked it. The smaller trees on the regular side-saddles the man called them regular horse killers. She asked Frank if she should jump and he said, "No." but she did dropping the baby first. She lighted on her head and was unconscious for several hours but she came out of it and lived a few months. The doctor said an abscess had formed on her lungs and this caused her death on July 28, 1898. She complained of the heat bearing down on her so much. She was buried in the Drew lot in Sacramento, Cal. and so ended a life so young, only 37 yrs. old, and so full of promise.



* * *

Joe Woods and Bert Potter came to Greer's Ranch for their health. Their suitcases contained much medicine, (which the cowboys threw away and they could not get more on the ranch) and the doctor's orders were all disregarded by the cowboys. They recovered and Joe sent for his friend Frank Drew and after a season Frank had his Mother and sisters, Lizzie and Ella come. Lizzie was hired as governess as there wasn't any school near for the children. The Drews were just like part of the family, from then on. Will and Cecil own and operate F. P. Brew and Sons Lumber Store, Mesa, Ariz, started by father 55 years ago. Lloyd passed away early. Frank P. has 4 sons, Greer, Frank P. Lloyd A. and Cecil who likes ranching and cattle.



F. P. DREW AND SONS LUMBER CO.
Mesa, Arizona.



Cecil L. Drew, Wm. Drew, N. Baldwin Drew
Sons of Frank P. and Dessie (Greer) Drew.

At Worlds Fair San Francisco, Cal 1915

Wm Drew and his 2 Grandmothers, 3 Aunts, wife and cousin.



Ella Drew Clements, Lizzie Drew Armstrong, Wm. Drew and wife Della
Oasis Blassingame, Mrs. Drew, Ellen C. Greer, Miss Ellen V. Greer.

0134373

"THE COWBOY," DICK GREER, 1883



Richard Decatur Greer

My father — D.G.R.



Dick



Hyrum (Hi) Hatch



Dick



Dick

Dodd said, "Uncle Dick was the most reckless man, I ever saw on and with a horse, he had no fear of anything. The horses in those days were far ahead of the broncos, now, fiercer and tougher. The cowboys today could not even get in the corral with horses then."

DIX

* * * *

Dick St. Johns Herald. May 26, 1887

The McCormick House has been crowded to overflowing with guests from all parts of the country. All expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the table and accommodations afforded.

Prop. Richard D. Greer.

* * * *

From Sanford A. Hunt; Dick had to get somewhere and the water was too high to cross the stream. He was told that it could not be done. He backed his horse 50 ft. back from the water and made a run for it and got through safely. The ones who told him that it could not be done did not laugh when he came in all wet but triumphant.

CARR G. ?

* * * *

RILEY R/P

The Navajos, many years ago, were mad at Dick. They said he had taken some of their horses. They had a name for him. They plan- ned to 'get him' and he got word of it. He found that they were to be at a certain place, at a certain time. He went there, they were surprised, he went right up to them, elbowed through them, stood around with the, unafraid. They never talked of getting him again.

* * * *

Oasis his sister says, "If Dick thought anyone was going to try to put something over on him he could always think of some way to 'outsmart' them.

FRANK DREW
JOE WOODS

* * * *

JOHN H. ?

Judge George H. Crosby in St. Johns Observer: Dick is in business in Holbrook and has always been a factor in political matters of both counties.

* * * *

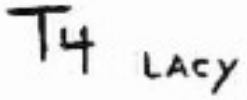
My Dad was not afraid to venture? He would try anything, and usually made it work. If someone said a thing could not be done, he just enjoyed showing them that it could. He liked to do the hard and impossible things. He was a cowboy, cattle-man, financier. In his late years, to keep himself busy, he owned a shoe-shop where he took a great delight in mending shoes. Also then he taught himself to use a type-writer. He believed in work. If he were ever idle, I am sure that his mind was busy working. He was zealous, earnest, energetic, industrious, alert, clever, ambitious, fearless, positive, cool and calculating, a thinker and a worker, had circum-



stances permitted he might have been a great leader.



A thing unheard of, then and there in St. Johns, was for a grown person to go to school at the children's school. He could do this and attend school too because he was in town for the winter, running his hotel. He went with John W„ Brown, as his teacher and in the sane room with his own son, Riley. He started in the fifth grade, but ended in the eighth, the highest there. This took courage and stamina ... E. G. R.



* * * *



Cyrus McCleve owned and operated a service station in Holbrook years ago. Dick worked for him as an attendant. Cy said, "I never saw anyone who could please and get the tourists in as good humor as well as he could. He could say things that made them remember him and when they returned they wanted to see him again."

* * * *



Dodd said, "Years ago in St. Johns the Berrys were going to move a building and the Mexicans refused to let them do it. Dick Greer appeared with his six shooter and told them the house was going to be moved and that there was going to be law and order. And the house got moved."



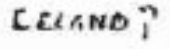
* * * *



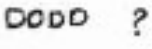
Sanford Hunt said, "Harris was not quick to pick up a maverick. Only once do I know of him getting one and then he was months before he branded it."

* * * *

May was daughter of Tom and Ellen (my pretty sister, my little partner says Oasis, md. Wm. Pulsipher) losing two children, Ina and Vivian with diphtheria and croup when so young, she contracted sugar diabetes early in life and died in Idaho, only 32 yrs. old, mother of Vance, Kathleen, Nina and Donna.

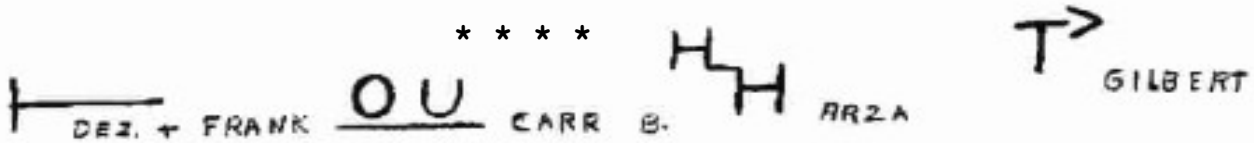


* * * *



There are two living daughters of Tom and Ellen, Mrs. Ann Thomas of Mesa Arizona, mother of 4 sons, and Mrs. Margaret Pulsipher, mother of seven children in Provo, Utah, a piano teacher.

* * * *





Greers Ranch

JOHN HARRIS GREER FAMILY



Irwin B. Greer



14 Children

FAMILY OF JOHN HARRIS AND ORPHA N. GREER

1. Myrtle	md	Benj. Brown	8. "Kate"	md.	Stradling Hall
2. John H.	"	Mary E. Heap	9. Jas. A.	"	Laura J. Paddock
3. Sabina	"	Carl A. Law	10. Florence	"	Geo. E. Crosby
4. Lillian	"	Gordon A. Parks	11 Irwin B.	"	Blanche Hamblin
5. Nathaniel	"	Edith Thomas	12 Nathan E.	"	Blanche Hamblin
6. Thos. L.	"	Nellie M. Thomas	13 Leland C.	"	Alice G. Crosby
7. Margaret	"	Nichols-Hayden	14 Raymond H.	"	Wright- _____

--- MY FATHER John Harris Greer ---

by Jim Greer

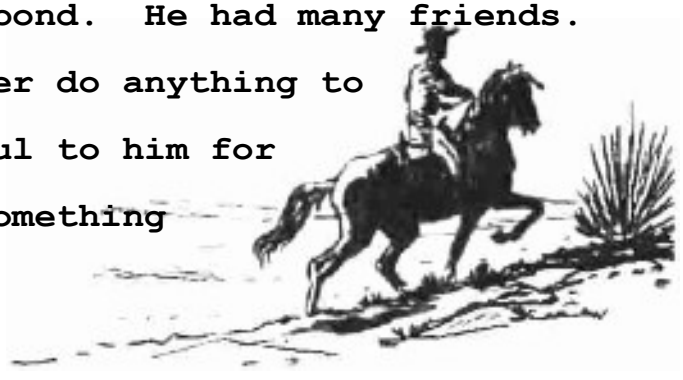
I think that he was one of the finest men I ever knew. As a young man I admired him. I don't think that I understood him, however. Father was a very independent man, I only wish that he had expressed his wishes a little more clearly.

Mother and Father bore and raised fourteen children. I am the ninth of the family. We lived on a ranch, near Hunt, Ariz. It was known as Greer's Ranch. Many happy days we had there, some a little trying, we all worked hard. I would give anything in the world if we were living there now.

I am wondering if we are really aware of the wonderful things that our parents do for us? It seems that when we get to the age where we could really help them, that we lose sight of our responsibility. I know that was true in my case.

My father told me once that he didn't want me to think that he couldn't get along without me. I wish that he had told me that he needed me,

I remember that when he came to California, to visit me, how much I enjoyed having him. I wasn't active in the Church then and he talked to me about the good things there were in store for me, if I would become interested and work in it and what a wonderful man the Prophet Joseph Smith was. I will always remember and love the counsel that he gave me then. Father was a man of his word, his word was his bond. He had many friends. I only hope and pray that I will never do anything to mar his good name. I am very grateful to him for teaching me to work and not expect something for nothing. Written by Jim Greer



A FAMILY TREE

John A. or D. Greer

Nathaniel | Hunt Greer



Wms. Wash. Camp



Diannah Greer Camp



Thomas L. Greer



Ellen C. Greer



John Harris Greer



Orpha E. Nicholl



James A. Greer



Laura Sherwood J. Paddock



Jimmie

The (Top) John A. or D. Greer is Jimmies' 3rd Great Grandfather



Loreno



---AUNT A'S Story of her life---

My life as I remember it by Oasis Greer Blasingame.

I was born Nov. 23 in the year 1867 in Bosque Co. Texas. The earliest I remember was being down by the Brazos River in a small cabin and another built nearby for the kitchen. Both had fireplaces, but not many windows. There was a small opening near the fireplace by the light of which Mother sat to sew.

I would rise early in the AM., go out in the yard with my little brother Willie to hunt the duck eggs which were to be found all around the yard. The death of Willie was sad indeed to me. Soon after this I was six years old we moved from the little cabins to the farm called The Drake Place about 10 miles away. There we had a large store house which was partitioned into rooms for a dwelling. We attended school about 5 miles away in the brush, five of us riding two ponies, Gil, Dessie, Harris, Dick and I. The one of us that was ready first could ride behind our eldest brother, Gil, who was always punctual.

One morning Gil and I had gone on ahead. Father brought in watermelons in time for the others to eat some. They carried some slices to us but their horse jumped the ditch and they fell off and the fall made them ill and they lost the melons that they carried both in hands and in stomach. They did not like it when we laughed at school. Some students here came from a rough class of people. Dessie seemed to disagree with them and several fights took place.

The next happening that I remember was when my sister, May, was born in 1875. Mother told us we could go to the neighbors and when our folks sent for us and Dessie was having such a good time that



she refused to go so I had to get on Grease (named because he looked shiny like he had been greased) alone and he ran away with me but the big brothers caught him and rescued me before he could reach the bars at home and jump.

A very outstanding event was when the L. D. S. missionaries paid us a visit and I was so excited because our Grandma Camp came with them and she made her home with us from that time until her death in Mar. 1776. These missionaries were our relatives and they stayed with us some time and baptized Dick, Harris, and I.

The next school was close to our house and was taught by a man of Mr. Chas, Rutter, a well educated man, but of low principles because he made love to my sister Dessie only fourteen years of age and persuaded her to go away with him though bitterly opposed by her folks, they left and were married not far away and they went away and we did not see her for four years. Then Uncle Bill persuaded her to go to Ariz, with him and some others who came to Ariz, to visit. With them was Grandma Greer (Ann Terry Roberts), Gil went to meet them, Ann and May and Lacy went up (or down) the road from Greers Ranch to meet them. I was bashful and stayed home and I was holding Maggie, the baby, and I would not even go out when they came. Dessie ran in and greeted us and picked up May who had been the baby when she left Ann stood off to the side, rather unnoticed and when she was called into the limelight Dessie said, "Well, I do not know her she and Maggie were born after I left." We loved Dessie so much and were so glad to have her back. After this she stayed and never returned to Texas. Her husband was murdered it was thought in revenge.



There were no children born to them.

Now going back to when we lived in Texas, we

were preparing to move to Utah in 1876, they had been in Texas 20 years. Grandma Camp had just died and was buried in Kimball Bosque Co. Texas.

One day Gil was playing with Lacy and hurt him so he began to have spasms and we were so frightened but he soon recovered.

We left in the early spring of 1876 with our horses, cattle, three wagons and buggy with two seats, rather large. We arrived in Barber Co. Kan. where we wintered our stock and it was here that my younger sister, Ann Terry, was born, Jan 1877. The people were very unfriendly to say the least killing our horses for wolf bait. There was a friendly family who came with us. I do not remember where we "met-up" with them but we traveled together.

We moved on in the early spring making a lone dry drive and the cattle were thirsty when we came to the springs called Aqua Fria (cold water) in New Mex. The cattle were so thirsty that they trampled the water troughs and the owner became angry and drove them away. Father talked to the man and tried to make some terms. In the meantime Nat and Avery, a hired man, had scouted around and found water within 4 miles. They rode up just as father and the other man reached camp. When accused of lying, the Mexican, said he had told no lie and Avery hit him with his six-shooter. There might have been a fight, but Father stopped them.

And we stayed all night after starting next morning, the stock were ahead and the sheriff and eight men from Fort Wingate overtook us and wanted to take us to the Fort for a trial. While Father talked Mother told me to slip out and run on ahead and catch the men and tell them about it. I walked along like I was picking



flowers but when I got to the hill and over I disregarded flowers and ran like sixty and caught the men and they came back. There were prospects for a fight, each man pot behind a tree and was ready to shoot. But Father talked to them and finally satisfied them with money and we moved on, averting trouble and tragedy. (From here on I will summarize it, E.G.R.)

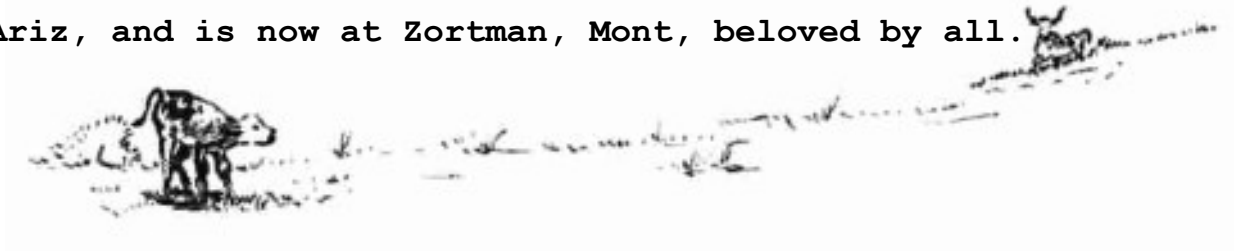
They located in Ariz. After courtship and marriage to Robert Carr Blassingame they lived on ranches, raising cattle. Carr was appointed battle Inspector at Denver and they lived there, and in Chicago. Her mother visited her there, I believe at the time of a World's Fair, in 1893.
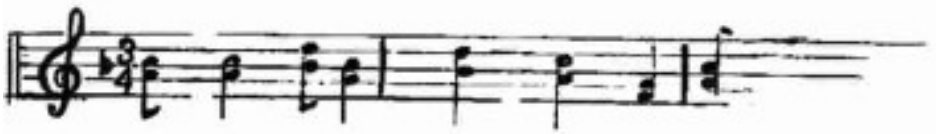
Ellen C. Greer and Ellen Greer, a young lady teaching school, went to the 1915 World's Fair, at San Francisco. Oasis met them there at Ella and her sister Lizzie Drew Armstrongs and they had a grand time. It was so nice with the Hawaiian entertainment and wonderful exhibitions of the world's progress.

In 1908, she helped her mother tend her sister Mays' motherless children, in St Johns, Ariz. Her mother, especially in her late years asked her to come and live with her and she went a number of times. This made her mother very happy.

Idaho and Mont, were their homes at times. In Spokane, Wash, she learned placer mining and found it thrilling to find the little gold nuggets. She still has a necklace using the nuggets that she found as pendants, in graded sizes.

She lived some tine with her sisters Margaret, in Provo and Ann in southern Ariz, and is now at Zortman, Mont, beloved by all.





The Greers loved to sing and have music. They sang southern songs. A song that they often sang was "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen." Ellen sang all her 12 children and many grandchildren to sleep with "Old Uncle Ned." Here is a song that they could sing and make you want to weep.

- - -MY PRETTY QUADROON- - -



I scarce knew that I was a slave
So kind was young Massa to me,
So gentle, so manly, so brave,
That I had not a wish to be free
Massa had gardens and bowers
And flowers were always in bloom
He begrudged me my pretty wild flower
Cora, my pretty quadroon.
Chorus:
Oh, my pretty quadroon
My flower that faded too soon
My hearts like the strings on my banjo,
All broke for my pretty quadroon.
Repeat last two lines.
Farewell to Kentucky's green hills
Farewell to the little corral
Where Cora and I often strayed.
Farewell to Kentucky's green shade
My sorrow will soon be forgot
And my heart will find rest in the tomb,
But my spirit will fly to the spot
And watch o'er my pretty quadroon,
Chorus.

- - -Uncle Ned- - -

There was an old darkie, and his name was Uncle Ned
And he lived long ago, long ago. He had no hair on the top of his
In the place where the hair ought to grow. head
Chorus:
Lay down the shovel and the hoe, Hang up the fiddle and the bow.
There is no more work for poor Uncle Ned, He's gone where the good
niggers go.
His fingers were long as the cane in the brake;
He had no eyes for to see, And he had no teeth for to eat a hoe
So he had to let a hoe cake be. cake;

One cold frosty morning, old Uncle Ned died
Massa's tears they fell like the rain, For he knew when Ned was
He'd never see his like again. laid on the ground,



--GOING INTO TONTO BASIN--

A trip in Arizona in early days.

In about 1884 a trip had to be taken by two young married sisters, and their two babies, but without their husbands. The men were going another route, the longer way, driving cattle, to greener and fresher range in Tonto Basin in Gila County, Arizona. They would meet their husbands there.

One girl was Deseret "Dezzie", she was called. She lived in Tonto Basin. The younger sister was Oasis called "Acey" or "A". She was going to spend a season with her sister while the men tended the cattle and horses there. They started from "Hay Hollow" near the "Milky" in Apache Co., Ariz.

They were traveling by team and would follow the wagon road. It would take them about three days and nights. They weren't worried even though they were in Indian territory where the Apaches did sometimes frighten and molest people. Desperadoes were common in Arizona then, but they did not fear them. They had learned that these so called "bad-men" were often the kindest and most gentle to real ladies and children. They knew much of Geronimo and the Apache Kid. Killings, fights, and Mexican trouble, all these they were used to having been raised in Texas and Arizona.

Dezzie had been at Greer's Ranch — Hunt now — visiting her mother Ellen C. Greer who brought her and her baby Frank over to Acey to begin the trip. Margaret was with her mother, Ellen, and she tells that she remembers that her mother cried much of the way going back home alone with her, after leaving Deseret and Oasis.

Tonto Basin was at times called Pumpkin Center and Packards. It is 1000 ft. elevation, an isolated basin, population now 50. It is rich in grazing feed and has pines and walnut trees and is some part of a National Forest. Deer, bear, and mountain lion are found there. Tonto Creek and Roosevelt lake form the waters, and pelicans are plentiful.

They left Hay-Hollow going toward Showlow but the road, little more than a cow-trail did not lead them into the town. After traveling all day, 40 to 50 miles, they camped for the night. It had rained and was still raining so they could not sleep on the ground conveniently as was the usual custom. Neither service stations nor cabins had been heard of then. So they slept in their wagon. Rain or storm were minor things in those days, so they tried to ignore the rain.

All the next day they had heavy mud and their travel had to be slow, and the steady drizzle of rain was depressing. Acey became blue and began to cry. A rainbow came out and Dezzie said a little verse.

"Rainbow at night, sailors delight
Rainbow in the morning, sailors take warning."

This cheered Acey. It was the first time she had heard this rhyme and she never forgot it. By night they had come to a lonely dilapidated, discarded old house, and they decided to go into it and get out of the rain and stay there all night. Even had it been a good home it would not have been locked. In Arizona even now most isolated places and ranches are left open to invite to weary travelers to stop and accept the hospitality or use of the place as though the owner were there and had invited them in.

They gathered sage-brush sticks and wood and made a fire and tried to dry out their bedding and when they had the horses and babies tended they went to bed. During the night the rats and mice celebrated their coming by running, jumping, scratching and chewing around and almost ran over them and before morning they vowed no more camping in an old house, no matter how much it rained.

The third day found them still plodding along. Dezzie discovered a bear-track following the road going the same direction as they were and the tracks were fresh. (The mud had made travel slow and delayed them). She said nothing about it to her gentle, timid sister, but around every turn or tree she expected to see the bear. These Greer girls had learned to shoot and were not afraid to do it. When my mother first came to the Greers, she married one of them — they begged her to learn to fire their pistols. She was reluctant, she hadn't been around guns and wasn't used to them like these cowboys and their sisters were. They told her the pistol wasn't loaded to get her to fire it. She believed them and aimed at one of the men's hats on his head, and shot th- rough it. All of them were as frightened as she when that hap- pened. Dezzie watched the bear tracks and urged the tired hor- ses on. It was getting late and they were getting near "The Rim" or top of "The Basin". Acey had never been there before, so it was all new to her. They must make it down before darkness fell if possible. So, forcing the team as much as she could, they came to "The Rim". The horses were unhitched as they must be ridden down the steep trail. The wagons were left on top as there was not any way to get them down. Acey got out and took a look at the abrupt drop off the mountain down the steep rocky, narrow trail. She was terror-stricken and declared she could not and would not go down there. "A" said, "You can go down there if you want and break your neck, but I won't go."

Dezzie proceeded calmly to get the horses and babies and bundles ready. Then she mounted her horse with her baby in front of her and started down. Acey cried and had to do something. She was afraid to stay there alone. She decided to walk and lead her horse. So carrying her baby, Ellen, she started to walk. As she and the horse started down the trail, they loosened rocks which fell noisily, rumbling down far below, making ghostly, weird

noises which frightened her more and more. She cried and said she couldn't see her steps and the baby started to cry also and became go heavy she thought best to give up and set on the horse. Then her sister took both babies, one in front of her and one behind her, and down they went. Dezzie tried to assure and calm Acey as much as possible. Acey was almost holding her breath and not daring to relax a muscle. One mis-step of a horse and over the ledge, horse and rider would go, down and down, but the horses are trusty animals, seldom fail their masters. Acey expected every moment to fall right over her horses head. Dezzie sang loudly, by now hoping to cheer them both, and gayly because she was almost home and safe again. They reached the bottom where there was a stream. Carr, Acey's husband, had heard the horses and the singing and had come to meet them. He waded right through the water, grasped his almost fainting wife in his arms, "Babe"' as he always called her, and carried her to safety. The trip was over and all was well.

Note: Ellen C. Greer, brave, fearless soul that she ever was, rode down this fearful trail on her faithful horse, "Old Charley". She scolded and talked to him all the way down, she was so nervous. And she started to walk also, and rode only when she was forced to. It must have been pretty [???] when it frightened her.
(The above was all told to me by Oasis herself.)

They stayed as long as they could in the fall, and then Carr had to be in attendance at a meeting in St. Johns and a heavy snow storm started and they knew that they must get out of there at once or it would be too late until spring. Carr rode up and down the trail, mashed the snow down so they could ride up and out. With it still snowing they started, Carr in lead to 'break trail' and Acey and their child, Ellen, behind her on her horse. They lost much time as the snow was shoulder high on the horses. The trail became so steep that Ellen slipped off and was almost covered with the snow. He laughed because she looked so funny and she became angry because they laughed at her. He consoled her and put her back on the horse and told her not to cry.

Arriving on top they transferred to the wagon, it was still snowing and no road visible. Acey drove the team and Carr on horse back, going in front, back and forth to make it easier for the horses. Before night fell they saw that they would not make it to the desired ranch, the slow way they were going so they abandoned the wagon and went on horseback. It was impossible for Carr to follow the road when he could not see the blazes on the trees, but they came to the fence and followed that at the last, to the house. The house was unlocked, open to anyone who might be out in that country at that time, and a custom in those days. There was a big fireplace and plenty of wood and they soon had a good fire. Then Carr took the horses to the barn where two bright lights greeted him when he opened the door and gave him a seconds' scare and it being a big lonesome cat, left behind, it was soon rubbing his legs happily. Luckily there was plenty of hay for

which they were thankful.

They had the lunch Dezzie had fixed, it being too cold to eat it before, so they spent a fairly comfortable night. Next morning early Carr took the team back to get the wagon. Acey kept watching for him and while at the door looking she had quite a sight when she saw some wild turkeys going towards the barn and farther on the team and wagon coming and Carr slipping up on the turkeys to get a shot at them. Soon she saw one go down and he waded, in the deep snow and dug it out and drove up to the house. They cooked some on the fireplace, and hung the rest out and it was quickly frozen stiff. Carr rode out a few miles and broke trail for an early start next morning.

It got colder, they left the thick timber and the snow became less deep and they made better time and were very glad but it was still so cold that she could not keep her hands warm enough driving so they stopped and made camp fairly early. With the team he pulled down a tree and set it on fire to last all night. The horses would get close enough to the fire to singe and scorch them when he was not watching them. Their bed was in the wagon. The Lee and Grant horses almost changed color standing in the smoke all night. They made it to a ranch the next night and got shelter, and next day to Holbrook where needed supplies were obtained then on to their old ranch at the cottonwoods for the night. Next morning, the day he must be at St. Johns, they made a real early start. Carr rode on ahead to get to St. Johns in time when he saw the heavy drifts in The Milky, knowing one horse had a sore shoulder now he returned and helped her through that, then he rode on again, and left her to come on at the team's pace.

After a long, lonesome day she arrived at Greer's Ranch, empty then. Carr had passed and provided wood for a good fire. She pulled in there to spend a lonesome night. The snow was so frozen and crusted that it cut the horses legs to get out next morning, but they were true blue, faithful animals and never faltered. 'Old Yellow' Lacy's horse was there alone and tried to welcome them. A bit later this horse got in the granary room, the door became closed, he could not get out and so died. Then on the last lap of this cold, cold journey they started for Concho and she was delighted to meet her sister May and her husband, William Pulsipher, coming to meet her. She said the joyful look on her mothers' face as they drove into the yard was only matched by the joy in her heart at being home again.

She brought her mother some of the turkey meat for a treat to her.

*** * * ***



They Also Came In '77, Settled Round Valley



Sue Greer Hamblin, Wilmirth Greer Dewilt



My brother Pratt. Elk.

Petrified Wood at Barths Hotel, at St. Johns, Arizona and Pratt.



Dick Greer



Elroy, 14 Years
son of
Pratt Greer



Merwyn, Pratt, Robert Mc Cleve





Vaughn, Lloyd, Paul, Dodd, Carr
sons of Lacy.



Ellen C. Greer & Willie



John H.



Mary Ellen



Carl



*** * * THE DRESDEN LADY * * ***

A book was almost written about Ellen C. Greer, born in Dresden, Tenn. Nellie Greer Lesch said that Ellen C. told her so many things when she was a child that she felt impressed to write her life history into a book. This was almost completed when Nellie (Nancy) passed away. She worked at this valiantly, for months and months when she was very ill, but she was determined to finish it. Will it be published? I wonder?

Among numerous trips that they made to other states to set material, for the book, they went to Dresden, Tenn. and saw the house where Ellen C. lived as a child. Quote from her letter written Nov. 1947. "The town is larger than I thought, quite active rather quaint, many old buildings still standing, situated in a hilly, wooded country, the Courthouse where we go for records, a tall red brick bldg. in the heart of town, business houses all around facing the square.----We were at the cemetery and found 5 headstones of Camps, including James Greer Camp (of the Mormon Battalion), it's a lovely cemetery but the Camp stones are thin marble slabs full of holes and some are broken. We took pictures of them and now are looking for the first estate of 95 acres the Camps owned, when they first came here.-----I wonder, Ellen, if I could have foreseen all the trouble and grief and work I have had getting this book ready, would I have gone on, I guess so, all I can say, not because it is part of you and me is that it will be a great book and a testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. It will be a truly beautiful story of our remarkable ancestors, and a book of interest, sorrow, courage, thrills and all that goes to make a wonderful life story and all true." unquote.



SAINT JOHNS.

In 1873, Jose Saavedra, about 21 yrs. old, came with his father to what is now St. Johns. With two feet of snow it was very cold. They made a dug-out in the side of the wash to live in. They came in a two wheeled cart the kind used by Spanish people then, pulled by oxen, with heavy straps fastened to their horns. Later the yoke was invented.

They came to build a bridge across The Little Colorado River, to cross the sheep of a rich man, Mr. Luna. The road from Zuni to Fort Apache also crossed the river here then but it was boggy and treacherous. Freighters on the road to the Fort were hired to bring the logs and poles to build the bridge. There was a charge of 25¢ to cross the bridge. The first house in St. Johns was the common kind made in early days, a cedar picket house.

Cedar posts were tamped into the ground about 18 in. side by side, others were added across the roof. All were bound by strips of raw-hide, the roof was covered with brush, tramped and packed, a foot of dirt added, sides and cracks filled with mud and a fireplace built. Not a nail, brick or piece of sawed wood in it. An axe was the only tool needed.

In about 1876, Solomon and Morris Barth came, located a ranch where the town now stands. There were settlers in Springerville before St. Johns, they brought potatoes down to Barths who had never seen a potato.

Ammon M. Tenny a missionary to the Indians was authorized to purchase the site for the town, in 1879, for 770 cows and $2000.00 worth of other goods for 1200 acres of land.....by Jim Shreeve.

--A PIANO THAT TALKED--

Can a piano talk? This big, black grand piano talked. It said, "Buy me,'' to Ellen C. Greer, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when she was choosing pianos in 1883 and she bought it for $500. Then it was crated and shipped, by train, to Holbrook, Ariz. Here it was loaded on a freight wagon and with four horses pulling it was taken about fifty miles to a ranch between Holbrook and St. Johns, where there was to be a big wedding.

For months previous that sewing machines had been humming, sewing the lovely satin and silk, the nun's veiling, lace, ribbon and embroidery into mystic wedding dresses for three dreamy brides, Lizzie Drew, Hannah Kempe and Dessie Greer who were to be married to Frances Armstrong, Dick Greer and Frank Drew respectively on. Oct. 3, 1883.

Of course there must be music and a piano and a wedding march! So she had to buy the piano, all their supplies came from Albuquerque. The wedding march was played by a music teacher, Mrs. Margaret Baird, Ellen's sister and Aunt of two of the wedding party. It was Mendelssohn's Wedding March and there were brides-maids and best-men and lots of food that had been in preparation for days.

The man to perform the ceremonies was Mr. John T. Lesueur, who came about 25 miles, from St. Johns, of course by team and buggy. That or horse-back being the means of travel there in those days. Friends came from far and near, there was food enough for all, but it was impossible to provide beds for all even by using another house, Aunt Maggie Baird's, across the flat, where the wedding supper was to be held. So the guests had to dance all night, an orchestra had been provided and the hours sped by, in the early morning hours carriages, wagons and horsemen were lining the roads, returning home.

And was the piano silent? No, there was fun, laughter, music and song constantly, Harris with his accordion, Lacy with banjo, and later on Ann with guitar and Maggie a mandolin and the girls learning to play the piano and become proficient 'piano players' as was befitting young ladies in those days.

It became best for the Mother to move to Concho, about ten miles away. Here the piano was the nucleus for the young and old, to gather around for many years for joy and pleasure. Music can put joy in one's step and sunshine in his heart and give relief and comfort when in tears. It may take one into another world and make a person feel soft and good, it may put life in the feet and make people dance, step and move in rhythm with other feet even keeping time unconsciously together. Martial music puts heart and courage in the weary soldier, strength in his step when he is too heartsick and weary to go on, yes music talks!

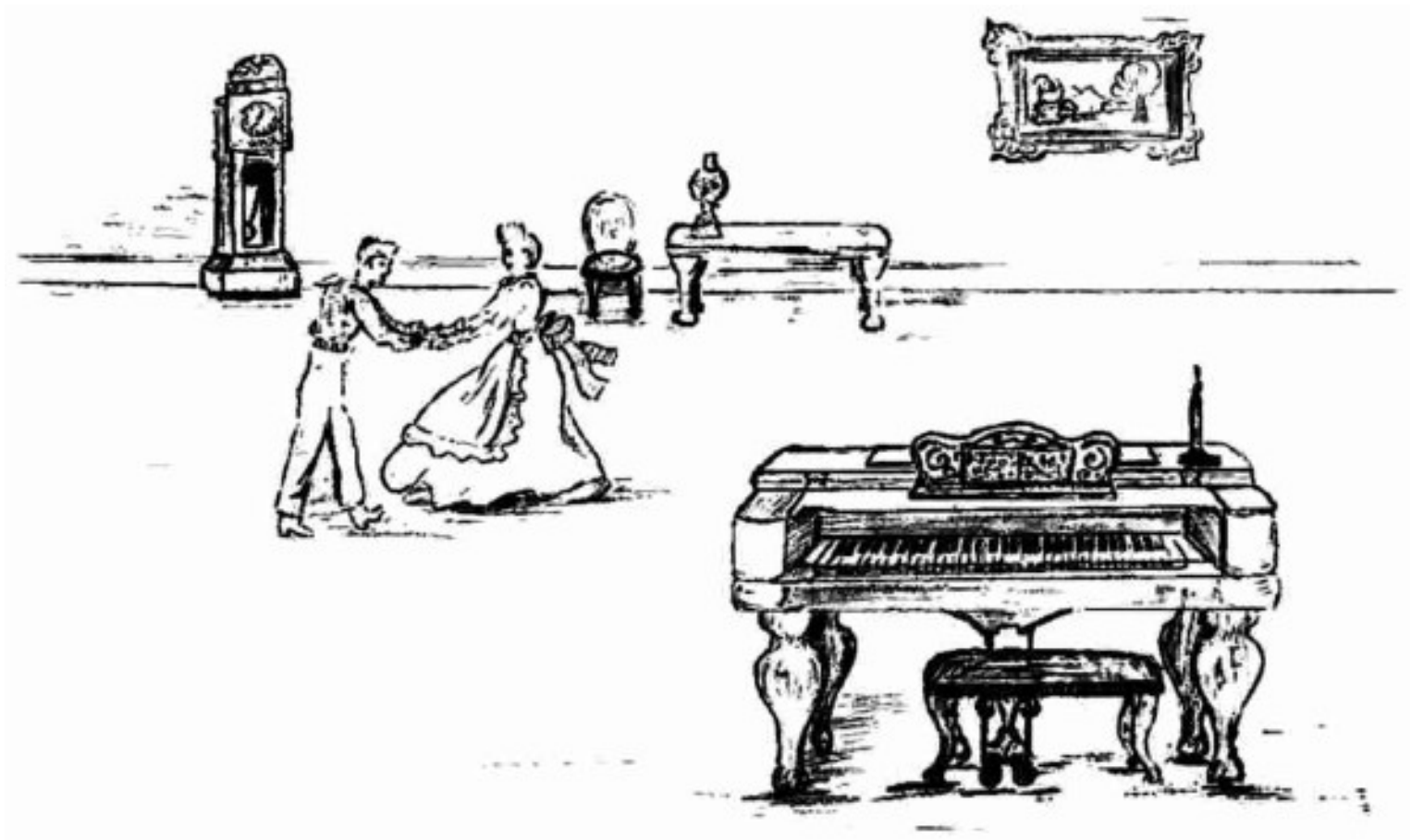
There came a time when the children were all married and gone the mother and the piano moved again, this time to St. Johns,

about twenty miles this time. But she did not need it much now. Her daughter, Margaret, in Provo, a piano teacher, gave lessons. It was decided to send it to her. Now it was sixty long miles from the railroad, moving-vans were not known there then, the cost to ship it was high, it was decided to sell it and send the money instead. One hundred dollars was the price asked. Jarvis-es purchased it first, then a Mr. Mineer and next it was in a barn or store-house with it's parts scattered about. It did not want to talk then only to say, "Take me out of here, let me make people happy."

It stayed there a number of years, then Lillian Greer Parks found it . Her brother John had it hauled to her home at Sunny Slope, near Phoenix, Ariz. Here she had Mr. Redwell put it into shape again with new strings, new keys and so on. She had thought to sell it as an antique, but when she had it in her house she grew to love it and could not part with it. She turned her own piano in on the repair bill. She thought so much of it that she feared to go away and leave it in an unoccupied house.

Lillian passed away. She had told her sister Flossie, "If I go, Grandma's piano is yours."

What is in store for this family piano, to continue being a prized family heirloom or to be sold to an antique shop or what?



--THE CHRISTMAS OF 1882 AT GREERS RANCH--

Joe Woods left in the first part of Dec. to go to Albuquerque, New Mex. for Xmas supplies. As Christmas drew near the older folks became concerned and mentioned to the children if Joe did not get back Old Santa might not come either. Thereafter as the children said their prayers; they prayed that Joe would return in time.

On the 24th a tree was set and decorated with strings of popcorn and decorations from last-years tree and that evening the children prayed more earnestly than ever that Joe would return and next morning, what joy, Santa had been there! Toys and presents covered the tree and a big box of apples was under the tree.

"Christmas gift" the older folks shouted to each other, the shades were drawn and the candles lighted and the presents distributed from the lovely tree. Margaret and Laura each received a little tin wagon with tin horses attached. A string was to be attached to it so it could be pulled around. Margaret's was yellow and red and Laura's was yellow and blue. All received their presents and candy but the apples were undisturbed.

Later Laura asked Aunt Ellen (and in late life many people called her that) if she might have an apple, and her aunt gave her one and kissed her and told her she could have more as long as they lasted. A deep love from the very first existed between these two and continued throughout their lives. This aunt became an ideal for the little girl to emulate. Many times as she watched her Aunt she wondered if she could become like her. As the years passed Laura realized more and more the real worth of this sainted lady and as her mind broadened, with the years, she thought of her as her fairy god-mother who always helped but never chided her through their lives so closely connected for fifty years.. by Laura B, Hunt

NINE OF THE ELEVEN CHILDREN OF DICK AND HAN. GREER



Riley



Ellen



Edna



Pauline



Pratt



Anna



Maude



Goldie



Winnie

"My Mother" . . . . Hannah Kempe Greer

My mother was a small, gentle and quiet lady. Born in Utah in 1867, she learned early what pioneer life was. Her family, Christo - pher J. Kempe, moved to Ariz. At 16 she married Richard Decatur Greer, "Dick" he was called. Eleven children came at regular intervals. She was always busy. She could milk cows easily, but she seldom rode horses.

We were living on our Puerco ranch about four or five miles from Holbrook, Ariz. One time my father took three of us, with him for a "round-up." My sister just younger than I was an excellent rider as she had ridden since young. Little Pratt was much younger than Edna or I but father had trained him early to ride. We could help gather the cattle and drive them and help him fairly well and it saved him hiring men which he did sometimes. He had to make his girls do for boys as two of his sons had died.

I returned from the weeks round-up driving the chuck-wagon, the rest driving the cattle. We could see the ranch a mile or so as we approached it. I noticed that there was a cow-hide stretched on the fence to dry. As it was very warm weather this was surprising. We had no refrigeration whatever. "Who would be killing a beef then," I wondered?

During the greetings, unharnessing and unsaddling we kept wondering but our questions to mother remained unanswered. She proceeded to get the meal ready very calmly. We 'washed-up' and she always managed to divert our attention from the subject. We sat down to eat expecting a nice dish of steaks, but there was not any meat served. After the meal we practically landed on her with all four feet and said, "Now Mother, what is this all about?" Our whetted sixth sense could wait no longer, so she told us. A big two-year old steer had come in to drink but he was too warm and drank too fast. When he reached the gate he had dropped dead. At this ranch we had two wind-mills. They pumped water into a pond which had a pipe leading into a wooden water-trough, which was just inside the outer corral. Water was hard to get. Even wild cattle would follow the cow-trails and come in thereto get a drink. After a day the cattle would not pass it to come in and drink. They would paw the ground and bellow around and go away. Each owner wanted his stock to stay on his range. Mother knew that they would go to other mills if they did not drink there and then my father would have to go hunt them. There were not any phones there then, she did not have a neighbor, not anyone passed by, town was too far away to get help.

After another day of pondering what to do she sharpened a butcher-knife and decided to cut it up and move it piece by piece. Her sense of economy came to the front and she decided to skin it and save the hide worth three or four dollars. The animal was all puffed up and had a strong odor, but after hours the ordeal was over, hence the hide on the fence, ...E.G.R.





Molly Greer Skousen
Jennie East
Wilmirth Greer Dewilt
Sue Greer Hamblin



Ellen C. Greer May



Ellen G. Rees





Hanna K. Greer

Oasis with shawl of E.C.Greer
Ellen with watch of E.C.Greer



Ellen, Leona, Nellie or Nancy



Dick & Daughters
Ellen, Dick and Edna



My Story

My grandmother, Ellen, often sat in a low rocking chair. She was rather a small lady, she would not have fit in a big easy chair. When she sat she was writing, reading, sewing or embroidering. She did much fine needle-work. She won numerous prizes at state and county fairs for her exquisite handiwork. In her late years, her right hand became partly paralyzed, but she persisted in sewing even when very difficult. I never saw her idle.

She had another chair, a little, low, plain one. I visited her often, as a girl and always chose this chair and placed it by her knees. I liked best to hear the letters that she wrote and received from her folks in 'The South', giving data so that she could do their temple work. Her heart was filled with a great desire to do this, a desire so big and strong that it entered my heart and so firmly that it has never left me. That came to me at my Grandmother's knees.

I copied her records and helped her write letters. I went on a mission. In Chicago I went to the Genealogical Library. At home again, married, seven children, always busy, I persisted in going to the Library here, in Salt Lake City. I seemed to make little progress in finding my ancestors, became discouraged, thought perhaps The Lord wanted me to just take care of my children. I prayed earnestly, "Should I give it up or not?" I asked an answer, I promised I would do either but I must know.

One day I went to the Library. Through a maze of unusual circumstances I was led to look in two books with Greer Coat-Of-Arms, a thing in which I had never been the least interested. As I read the motto on the crest, my whole body tingled and vibrated. It was almost as if water had suddenly been poured all over me. Light came I read,

"Remember Thy Ancestors." I had my answer.

Ellen Greer Rees



I WOULD LIKE TO TELL OF

....Nat Greer who had a bull-fight arena business in El Paso, Tex. and his four sons— Tom, the oldest grandchild of Tom and Ellen, he has a cowboy store in Glorieta, New Mexico, Mike, who died when a young man, and Bill somewhere, and their families, if I knew about them.

....Of Riley, brilliant, smart, a cowboy for a while, but not of his choosing, a student, talented musician, school teacher 14 years, a lawyer, District Attorney, ran for Judge, disappeared we knew not where, nor if he is alive now, beloved by his loved ones who wish he would return, father of 2 sons, Menlo, who died and never saw his son, Menlo Dare Greer now of Mesa, Ariz», and Danzy Marl Greer of Salt Lake City and their families.

.....Of Pratt also son of Dick, a late service-station man in Holbrook, Ariz. and his three sons, Merwyn (in service), Lavar and son, and Elroy K, a student.

.....Of Harris's John and Leland in St. Johns, Jim who owns a welding business in Whittier, Calif, of Tom and Irvin deceased, Nat ____ Raymond and their families.

.....Of Lacy, a daring expert cowboy, who had a trick of his own, in roping and getting an animal down and who met an untimely accidental death so early in life, father of 4 sons--Dodd a brilliant lawyer who also went early in life, we wonder why, Lloyd of St. Johns, Ariz, Harris Vaugh, a jeweler of Los Angeles, Cal., and Paul, and Carr a surveyor of Provo, Utah and their families.

.....Of Dodd's sons Dick, also a lawyer, Thad, a music teacher in St. Johns and Lacy ____ and their families ____.

.....Of Arza dying young and his sons ____.

.....Of Texas Greers, our relatives and of whom we know so little, whom I did not get to contact and the Idaho Greer Johnsons, likewise not contacted for lack of time.

.....Of the Willie and Cecil Drew, boys so kind to Aunt A. and Aunt Ann, good to write me and help, Frank P. in Klamath Falls, Oregon with his four sons.

.....Of the Easts, descendants of Wilmirth Greer East. Mrs. Allie Carlson, Pima, Ariz, a granddaughter, wrote me so interestingly at length of her people.

.....Of beloved, Uncle "H"'s sons, Stansell (Bud, to us) Nello's father and Nello who has been bishop for years in St. Johns, now in Stake presidency, his son Melvin both of St. Johns. Jim who died a young man, Orson Pratt, a gifted school-teacher and their families.

....Of, our cousin, P.P. Greer banker, of Globe, Ariz., of Dallas Tex. who wrote he was anxious to see this booklet as he loved his kin-folks. Allie Carlson, his relative says of him, "He was one of the best men that I ever knew."

.....Of Garth Greer, father ____, mother Mrs. Nellie ____ Davis.

.....Of the Greers who have given their lives in service, of those in service now, but I do not know them.

.....Of Nathan, son of Harris, in Mesa, and his family.

...Of Ed East, a scholar, who lived so wisely and well.

...I should like to have told you all the things that you wanted.

...You may keep personal family records in this book.

****

Arizona has a little town, pop. about 100, nestled in The White Mts. named Greer. I believe it was called Amity, at first, the name chosen by "Uncle H ", meaning friendship. Three lakes, The Colorado River and four trout streams provide fine fishing. Deer, antelope, elk are there to found, by hunters. Geo. Crosby and wife, Flossie Greer Crosby have a general store there.

****

Shall we have another booklet, on Greers, next reunion? Do you. want to send in what you have missed this time? I have much information on the Greer line of Diannah Greer Camp, wife of Wm. W. Camp, daughter of James Greer Jr. of Tenn., which is vital to us and likely to be connected with our Nath. H. Greer line. Shall we?

****

"May the good Lord take a liking to us
And have mercy on our souls,
We Greers are an ornery bunch." E. G. R.

